

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 0514

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GW, UR, SOPN

SUBJ: REASONS FOR SOVIET REFUSAL TO PARTICIPATE IN BERLIN

SPEED SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS

REF: A) BONN 4112; B) USBERLIN 489

1. SUMMARY: MEYER-LANDRUT POST MORTEM OF SOVIET SPEED SKATING BOYCOT IS INTERESTING BUT NO COMPLETELY CONVINCING. WE APPRECIATE RECEIVING DETAILED INFORMATION ON CODA TO QA APPARENTLY NEGOTIATED BY FRG THREE YEARS AGO BUT WOULD NOTE THAT, IN CONTRADICTION TO MEYER-LANDRUT STATEMENT THAT INFORMAL FRG-SOVIET AGREEMENT ON INVITATIONS FOR NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS PARALLELS QA, IT IS APPARENTLY MORE RESTRICTIVE, FURTHERMORE, IT WOULD APPEAR TO BE PRECISELY IN THAT AREA OF DIVERGENCE FROM QA THAT SOVIETS CHOSE TO TAKE THEIR STAND. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO MEYER-LANDRUT, 1973 FRG-SOVIET AGREEMENT
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PROVIDES THAT "IN CASE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS

IN BERLIN, THE APPROPRIATE GERMAN AND BERLIN ORGANIZATIONS WOULD ISSUE SEPARATE INVITATIONS." QA PROVIDES THAT, FOR GOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS, "INVITATIONS WILL BE ISSUED BY THE SENAT OR JOINTLY BY THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND THE SENAT." BY OUR INTERPRETATION "JOINTLY" RAISES THE POSSIBILITY OF A SINGLE PIECE OF PAPER WHICH WOULD EXPRESS THE INVITATION OF BOTH THE FEDERAL AND BERLIN AUTHORITIES. ACCORDING TO MEYER-LANDRUT SOVIET OBJECTION IN SPEED SKATING CASE CAME DOWN TO FACT THAT "THERE WAS NO SEPARATE BERLIN INVITATION. A SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICIAL EVEN TOLD MEYER-LANDRUT THAT THE RUSSIANS WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM IF THERE HAD BEEN TWO SEPARATE INVITATIONS RATHER THAN ONE PIECE OF PAPER IN WHICH THE BERLIN FEDERATION WAS SEPARATELY MENTIONED." IT STRIKES US, THEREFORE, THAT SOVIETS HAVE MANAGED TO ESTABLISH WITH FRG A AGREEMENT, WHETHER FORMAL OR NOT, THAT GOES INTO AREA NOT REGULATED BY QA AND ESTABLISHES PRECONDITIONS marginally more RESTRICTIVE OF BERLIN-FRG TIES THAN THOSE PROVIDED BY QUADRIPARITE DOCUMENT. WE WOULD THINK THAT SOVIET DESIRE TO ESTABLISH THIS GAIN OR, ALTERNATIVELY, TO DEMONSTRATE BERLIN'S LIABILITIES AS SITE FOR INTERNATIONAL EVENTS, FAR OUTWEIGHED ANY PIQUE OVER PRESS ATTACKS BY GERMAN SPORT OFFICIALS AND BERLIN POLITICAL FIGURES WHICH AFTER ALL WERE SHARPEST WHEN IT APPEARED SOVIETS WERE NOT COMING, NOT IN PERIOD OF FEW DAYS WHEN IT LOOKED LIKE THEY WERE ON THEIR WAY.

3. ALLIED MONDAY MORNING QUARTERBACKING ABOUT 1973 FRG-SOVIET AGREEMENT WOULD OBVIOUSLY NOT BE HELPFUL. IF SUBJECT IS RAISED IN BONN GROUP, HOWEVER, ALLIES MIGHT NOTE THAT CONSULTATION ON 1973 AGREED PROCEDURES COMES UNFORTUNATELY LATE IN DAY. WHILE WE ARE SYMPATHETIC TO NEED FOR FRG TO OBTAIN COMPLIANCE FROM SPORT FEDERATION OR OTHER NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS WITH PROCEDURES THAT FRG FEELS IT HAS COMMITTED ITSELF TO WITH SOVIETS, THIS WOULD APPEAR TO BE SOMETHING WHICH BASICALLY MUST BE HANDLED BETWEEN FRG AND ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED. IT WOULD SEEM DIFFICULT FOR ALLIES FORMALLY TO TAKE POSITION WITH PRIVATE GERMAN ORGANIZATIONS THAT 1973

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PROCEDURES ARE REQUIRED BY OR ARE CONSISTENT WITH QA, HOWEVER, UNLESS IN SO DOING WE WERE PREPARED TO SAY THAT SENAT AND FRG SHOULD SEND SEPARATE RATHER THAN JOINT INVITATIONS TO ALL GOVERNMENTAL INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS, POSITION WHICH WE UNDERSTAND RUNS COUNTER TO THAT PREVIOUSLY TAKEN BY FRG. BEST WE COULD DO PERHAPS WOULD BE TO ALLOW FRG TO ADVISE ORGANIZATIONS THAT ALLIES HOPE THEY CAN FIND WAY TO AVOID PROBLEMS

OF SORT THAT PLAGUED SPEED SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS IN
FUTURE AND THAT, IF THEY ARE HELPFUL, WE CERTAINLY HAVE
NO OBJECTIONS TO THEIR USING 1973 PROCEDURES.

4. TWO SMALL FACTUAL POINTS: MINOR SPORTS EVENT IN WHICH
SOVIETS PARTICIPATED WHILE SPEED SKATING CONTRTORCYCLE ICE
RACING. THIS IS FORM OF MADNESS THAT APPARENTLY IS
PARTICULARLY POPULAR HERE, AND, AS REF A POINTS OUT,
INVITATIONS WENT FROM BERLIN CLUB, NOT FROM AN FRG
FEDERATION. SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS TO WHICH MEYER-
LANDRUT REFERRED ARE IN 1977 NOT 1976. AS NOTED REF B,
SOVIETS ALLEGE THERE WILL BE NO DIFFICULTIES BECAUSE
REGULATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL SWIMMING FEDERATION REQUIRE
INVITATIONS FROM HOST STATE THUS, IN SOVIET VIEW,
BRINGING EXPLICIT QA PROVISIONS INTO PLAY. GEORGE

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